

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 /093 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:RKSHERWOOD:BA

APPROVED BY AF/W-ROBERT K. SHERWOOD

AF-AMB. ROOT (SUB)

----- 100938

R 291558Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER COUP

REF: (A) NIAMEY 1260, B) ABIDJAN 3271

1. AS EMBASSY ABIDJAN IS AWARE FROM REFTEL (A) AND OTHER MESSAGES, THE SITUATION IN NIGER IS CALM AND APPARENTLY STABLE. KOUNTCHE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHING ITS AUTHORITY AND BONA FIDES WITH APPARENT SUCCESS. REFTEL (B) INDICATES GOIC PREPARING WORK WITH NEW GON. AMBASSADOR HECK WILL BE PROCEEDING IN NEAR FUTURE TO NIAMEY TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS.

2. IF AMBASSADOR AGREES, HE IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY TO HOUPHOUET OUR AWARENESS OF THE SHOCK AND ANGUISH WHICH COUP HAS CAUSED HIM, AS WE TOO DO NOT FAVOR COUPS AND REGRET THE LOSS OF MRS. DIORI'S LIFE AND INJURIES TO PRESIDENT DIORI'S FAMILY. AT SAME TIME, US POLICY IS NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. FOR THE PAST YEAR THE US HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN AN IMPORTANT

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HUMANITARIAN EFFORT IN NIGER WHICH WE ARE COMMITTED TO

PURSUE IN RELIEVING SUFFERING CREATED BY THE DROUGHT. WE
THEREFORE WANT HOUPHOUET TO KNOW THAT WE ARE ONCE AGAIN
ASKING AMBASSADOR HECK TO PROCEED TO NIAMEY IN THE NEAR

FUTURE (YOU MAY RECALL TO HOUPHOUET THAT AMBASSADOR HECK
WAS IN PARIS EN ROUTE TO NIAMEY AT THE TIME OF THE COUP
AND WAS RECALLED TO WASHINGTON WHEN IT TOOK PLACE). WE
WOULD SEEK HIS UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR BELIEF THAT WE
SHOULD RESUME FULLY NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE GON. RUSH

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Drafter: RKSHERWOOD:BA
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